THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no law that provides for registration of Yoga therapy certificate holders as medical practitioners.

(c) and (d) All registered practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and appropriately trained personnel are permitted to practice acupuncture.

(e) and (g) Since the Central Government have not recognized acupuncture as an independent System of Medicine, the question of legally recognized institutes offering courses in acupuncture does not arise.

Practising Medicine without qualification

1099. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons who do not have prescribed qualifications and experience are practicing medicine and performing surgery illegally;

(b) whether some instances have come to the notice of Government recently; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Government do not have specific information in this regard. However, registration with the concerned Councils can be secured only by such practitioners who possess the requisite qualifications. According to provisions in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered medical practitioner can practice medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective Acts.

Cure of AIDS by Siddha Medicine

1100. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research papers have been submitted to his Ministry about the possible cure for the dreaded disease AIDS, by the Siddha medicine;

(b) how much fund is allocated for encouraging research, seminars and conferences to discuss about the cure of AIDS by the Indian Systems of Medicine; and

(c) what steps have been taken to popularize Indian Systems of Medicines such as Siddha and Ayurveda in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Ministry has received a research paper on "Suga Noi Sexually Transmitted Disease: Human Immuno Virus/Acquino Immuno Deficiency Syndrome." Further, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), an autonomous research body under the Deptt. of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has received two research papers; one on; "Immunomodulatory properties of certain Siddha drugs - PESIN and SIVA" and the other on "Study on the protective effect of BEKAY against Cecium Chloride induced hepatic damage in Rabbits".

(b) Exclusive allocations have not been made to discuss about the cure of AIDS by Indian System of Medicines. However, funds are provided for conducting seminars and discuss issues related to Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy.

(c) The Central Government has introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote and popularize Indian Systems of Medicine including Siddha and Ayurveda within the country and abroad. The Schemes under reference include provisions for intra and extra mural research, scientific validation and new development of drugs, development of ISM & H institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, drugs quality control, international exchange programme etc.

Healthcare Packages of AIIMS

1101. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) plan to introduce an executive healthcare packages for 'health conscious' individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;